

Elaine Cardenas  
Lib. 705 Assign #2  
Article Summary  
Sept. 27, 2009

## 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Learning Blocked: What Is a School Librarian to Do?

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=43915568&site=ehost-live>

Web 2.0, do we, or don't we? In the *School Library Monthly* Sept. 2009 issue, Linda Underwood addresses this issue. Web 2.0 has sparked great debate in educational and political arenas. Linda sets the stage with Marcy, a school librarian, who is anxious to begin using Web 2.0 tools in her library. She wants her students to collaborate and communicate using wikis, blogs, and social networks. When Marcy types search terms like "wiki" and "blog" into her computer the screen says "blocked" each time.

In his article "Mythology and Internet Filtering", M. Males cites two major concerns regarding the use of Web 2.0 tools. One concern is pedophiles luring children and another is young people being exposed to pornography. His feeling is that these concerns led to a nation-wide panic regarding students using the Internet. CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) was passed to protect the children. It mandated that certain libraries (those receiving LSTA funds or E-Rate funds) filter Internet access.

An Internet **Safety Technical Task Force** was formed. Sitting on this task force were 50 state attorney generals. They examined the potential threats facing children due to social networking. Their finding was that "online and offline bullying is far more serious than sexual solicitation".

Underwood gives several reasons for administrator's reluctance to embrace Web 2.0.

1. Fear of litigation: administrators choose to block all web 2.0 tools instead of determining which tools might be valuable
2. Waste of time: often times administrators can't see the educational value to social networks, blogs, wikis

3. Head in the sand: most students already use web 2.0 tools away from the school site anyway which some administrators don't acknowledge
4. Lack of understanding: many administrators would be hard-pressed to explain what exactly web 2.0 means. They don't have enough background themselves to understand the pros and cons of using/not using such tools.

Underwood presents a possible solution for Marcy's dilemma. She suggests that Marcy create a prototype which would demonstrate collaboration within the learning community. Further, she suggests that Marcy test the prototype with a few classes. Underwood feels that when presented with tested results administrators and parents are more willing to listen. Administrators and parents need to know that Web 2.0 tools encourage creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, discussion, and are necessary for what Underwood calls the "Net Generation".

Using Web 2.0 tools School Libraries can help students meet these **Standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> -Century Learner:**

- Inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge.
- Draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge
- Share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society
- Pursue personal and aesthetic growth  
(American Association of School Librarians 2007).